

To Mike Gallagher,

I was unable to attend the public hearing on November 9 and am therefore sending in our comments directly to you.

People For Puget Sound is a nonprofit, citizens' organization whose mission is to protect and restore Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits. Elimination of toxic contamination, especially Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics, in the sediment and food web of Puget Sound, in sources, and in products sold and used in Washington is a high priority for us.

We are pleased that you have added phthalates to the list of phase-out chemicals. Phthalates are found associated with 13 out of 18 Superfund Sites in Puget Sound. It does not make sense to clean up the sediments of the Sound and yet allow ongoing pollution to recontaminate those sites.

Some toxic chemicals, such as phthalates, mercury and lead, are major environmental justice issues and thus should be high priorities for the Department of Ecology.

We agree with the Washington Toxic Coalition's following comments to strengthen the rule:

1. Include metals that are classified as PBTs, such as lead, on the list of chemicals to be phased out. Numerous scientific studies show that lead bioaccumulates in our bodies and causes learning, behavioral, and intelligence problems in children.
2. Include the toxic flame retardant, deca-BDE, on the list of chemicals to be phased out. Deca breaks down into more toxic forms of PBDEs that have been shown to affect memory, learning, and behavior in laboratory animals at very low levels.
3. Ensure that the goal of the PBT Program and phase out plan (or chemical action plan) is to eliminate the uses and releases of a chemical.
4. Require that each phase out plan study and recommend safer substitutes to using the chemical and also include clear timelines for completion of the plan.

This important rule will set the standard for future work in the state. We appreciate your hard work and look forward to working with you on Toxic phase out programs.

Sincerely,

Heather Trim.

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